In the Claims

Please cancel without prejudice the non-elected claims and substitute the claims as set forth below in a complete listing. There are no amendments made at this time.

1. An isolated nucleic acid sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or a degenerate variant of SEQ ID NO:1.

2. The nucleic acid sequence of Claim 1, further comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or a degenerate variant of SEQ ID NO:2.

3. The nucleic acid sequence of Claim 1, wherein SEQ ID NO:1 further comprises at least one mutation selected from a deletion, a substitution, and an addition.

4. An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid sequence of Claim 1 operably linked to an expression control sequence.

5. A cultured cell comprising the vector of Claim 4.

6. A cultured cell transfected with the vector of Claim 4, or a progeny of said cell, wherein the cell expresses a polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid sequence.

7. A cultured cell comprising the nucleic acid sequence of Claim 1, operably linked to an expression control sequence.

8. A method of producing a protein, comprising culturing the cell of Claim 6 under conditions permitting expression of a polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid.

9. The method of Claim 8 further comprising purifying the polypeptide from the cell or the medium of the cell.

10. An isolated nucleic acid comprising a sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 1 or a degenerate variant thereof that encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

11. An isolated nucleic acid comprising a sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 1 or a degenerate variant thereof that encodes a polypeptide comprising at least one amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS:4-25.

12-25.(cancelled)

26. An isolated nucleic acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 1 or a degenerate variant thereof, which encodes a polypeptide consisting essentially of an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS:3-25.

27. The nucleic acid of Claim 26, wherein said selected amino acid sequence further comprises at least one mutation selected from a deletion, a substitution, and an addition.